

[STAFF WORKING DRAFT]

MARCH 7, 2014

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—113th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 2022

To establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:
2

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Forensic Science and Standards Act of 2014”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. National forensic science research initiative.
- Sec. 5. Implementation of forensic science research recommendations.
- Sec. 6. Forensic science research challenges.

Sec. 7. Forensic science standards.

Sec. 8. National Commission on Forensic Science.

Sec. 9. Adoption, accreditation, and certification.

Sec. 10. National Institute of Standards and Technology functions.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) at the direction of Congress, the National
4 Academy of Sciences led a comprehensive review of
5 the state of forensic science and issued its findings
6 in a 2009 report, “Strengthening Forensic Science
7 in the United States: A Path Forward”;

8 (2) the report states that research is needed to
9 address issues of accuracy, reliability, and validity in
10 the forensic disciplines;

11 (3) the report stresses the need for standards
12 in methods, data interpretation, and reporting, and
13 the importance of preventing cognitive bias and miti-
14 gating human factors; and

15 (4) according to the report, forensic science re-
16 search is not financially well supported, and there is
17 a need for a unified strategy for developing a foren-
18 sic science research plan across Federal agencies.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
22 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
23 gress” means the Committee on Commerce, Science,

1 and Transportation and the Committee on the Judi-
2 ciary of the Senate and the Committee on Science
3 and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
4 Representatives.

5 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
6 means the National Commission on Forensic
7 Science, a Federal advisory committee established
8 under section 8.

9 (3) COORDINATING OFFICE.—The term “Co-
10 ordinating Office” means the National Forensic
11 Science Coordinating Office established under sec-
12 tion 4.

13 (4) FORENSIC SCIENCE.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “forensic
15 science” means the basic and applied scientific
16 research and its application to the collection,
17 evaluation, and analysis of physical evidence, in-
18 cluding digital evidence, for use in investiga-
19 tions and legal proceedings, including all tests,
20 methods, measurements, and procedures.

21 (B) APPLIED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—In
22 subparagraph (A), the term “applied scientific
23 research” means a systematic study to gain
24 knowledge or understanding necessary to deter-

1 mine the means by which a recognized and spe-
2 cific need may be met.

3 (C) BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—In
4 subparagraph (A), the term “basic scientific re-
5 search” means a systematic study directed to-
6 ward fuller knowledge or understanding of the
7 fundamental aspects of phenomena and of ob-
8 servable facts without specific applications to-
9 wards processes or products in mind.

10 (5) INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—The term
11 “Interagency Committee” means the interagency fo-
12 rensic science committee established under section 4.

13 (6) STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZA-
14 TION.—The term “standards development organiza-
15 tion” means a domestic or an international organiza-
16 tion that plans, develops, establishes, or coordinates
17 voluntary consensus standards using procedures that
18 incorporate openness, a balance of interests, con-
19 sensus, due process, and an appeals process.

20 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE RESEARCH INITIA-**
21 **TIVE.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be a National Fo-
23 rensic Science Research Initiative to improve, expand, and
24 coordinate Federal research in the forensic sciences. Fed-
25 eral participation shall include the National Science Foun-

1 dation, the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
2 nology, the Department of Justice, and other Federal de-
3 partments, agencies, and offices contributing to research
4 in forensic science.

5 (b) NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE COORDINATING
6 OFFICE.—

7 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a
8 National Forensic Science Coordinating Office, with
9 a full-time director and additional staff, as needed,
10 to be located at the Office of Science and Tech-
11 nology Policy.

12 (2) DIRECTOR.—The Director of the Coordi-
13 nating Office shall be a senior Federal agency man-
14 ager detailed to the Office of Science and Tech-
15 nology Policy for a period of 3 years. Responsibility
16 for providing a director shall rotate among the Fed-
17 eral departments, agencies, or offices participating
18 in the National Forensic Science Research Initiative.

19 (3) DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—The Director
20 shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions
21 of this section, including coordinating the develop-
22 ment of a unified Federal research strategy under
23 subsection (e), working with the Federal depart-
24 ments, agencies, and offices to execute the research
25 strategy, coordinating the interagency forensic

1 science committee established in subsection (c), and
2 overseeing periodic reviews of the initiative.

3 (4) FUNDING.—Responsibility to fund the Co-
4 ordinating Office shall be shared by the Federal de-
5 partments, agencies, and offices participating in the
6 National Forensic Science Research Initiative. The
7 Federal departments, agencies, and offices partici-
8 pating in the National Forensic Science Research
9 Initiative may dedicate additional full- or part-time
10 staff to the Coordinating Office, as appropriate, to
11 sustain ongoing activities, facilitate special studies,
12 and provide additional support.

13 (c) INTERAGENCY FORENSIC SCIENCE COM-
14 MITTEE.—There is established an interagency forensic
15 science committee. The Interagency Committee shall be
16 co-chaired by the Director of the Coordinating Office and
17 a senior Federal agency scientist from a Federal depart-
18 ment, agency, or office participating in the National Fo-
19 rensic Science Research Initiative. Committee members
20 shall include representatives from the National Science
21 Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and
22 Technology, the Department of Justice, and other Federal
23 departments, agencies, and offices contributing to re-
24 search in forensic science.

1 (d) REPORT ON FORENSIC SCIENCE.—Not later than
2 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act—

3 (1) the Director of the National Science Foun-
4 dation, in consultation with the Director of the Co-
5 ordinating Office, shall contract with the National
6 Academy of Sciences, or a similar external, inde-
7 pendent science entity, to develop a report that—

8 (A) identifies the most critical forensic
9 science disciplines that require further research
10 to strengthen the scientific foundation in those
11 disciplines;

12 (B) makes recommendations regarding re-
13 search that will help strengthen the scientific
14 foundation in the forensic science disciplines
15 identified under subparagraph (A) and mecha-
16 nisms to accomplish that research;

17 (C) takes into account previous studies and
18 reports; and

19 (D) takes into account the expertise and
20 needs of Federal, State, and local forensic
21 science practitioners, law enforcement, the legal
22 community, victim advocate organizations, and
23 organizations that defend the wrongfully con-
24 victed; and

1 (2) the entity contracted under paragraph (1)
2 shall submit the report under that paragraph to the
3 Director of the National Science Foundation, the Di-
4 rector of the Coordinating Office, the Attorney Gen-
5 eral, and the appropriate committees of Congress.

6 (e) UNIFIED FEDERAL RESEARCH STRATEGY.—The
7 Director of the Coordinating Office, in coordination with
8 the Interagency Committee, shall oversee—

9 (1) the development of a unified Federal re-
10 search strategy that—

11 (A) specifies and prioritizes the research
12 necessary to enhance the validity and reliability
13 of the forensic science disciplines;

14 (B) is consistent with the recommendations
15 in the report on forensic science under sub-
16 section (d); and

17 (C) takes into account practical applica-
18 tions and implementation of the research;

19 (2) the development of a 5-year roadmap, up-
20 dated triennially thereafter, for the implementation
21 of the unified Federal research strategy under para-
22 graph (1) that includes a description of—

23 (A) which Federal department, agency, or
24 office will carry out each specific element of the
25 unified Federal research strategy;

1 (B) short-term and long-term priorities
2 and objectives; and

3 (C) common metrics and other evaluation
4 criteria that will be used to assess progress to-
5 ward achieving the priorities and objectives
6 under subparagraph (B); and

7 (3) the development of any necessary programs,
8 policies, and budgets to support the implementation
9 of the roadmap under paragraph (2), including
10 mechanisms for joint-agency review of research pro-
11 posals, for interagency co-funding of research activi-
12 ties, and for information sharing across agencies.

13 (f) EVALUATION.—The Director of the Coordinating
14 Office, in coordination with the Interagency Committee,
15 shall—

16 (1) evaluate biennially the National Forensic
17 Science Research Initiative to ensure that all activi-
18 ties under this section, including research conducted
19 under external grant activities, and through multi-
20 disciplinary research centers or centers of excellence,
21 meet the goals established by the unified Federal re-
22 search strategy and implementation of the 5-year
23 roadmap; and

24 (2) report biennially to the appropriate commit-
25 tees of Congress the findings under paragraph (1).

1 (g) DEADLINES.—The Director of the Coordinating
2 Office shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress—

4 (1) not later than 180 days after the date of re-
5 ceipt of the report on forensic science under sub-
6 section (d), the unified Federal research strategy
7 under subsection (e)(1);

8 (2) not later than 180 days after the date of re-
9 ceipt of the report on forensic science under sub-
10 section (d), the initial 5-year roadmap under sub-
11 section (e)(2); and

12 (3) not later than 1 month after the date it is
13 updated, each updated 5-year roadmap under sub-
14 section (e)(2).

15 **SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE RE-**
16 **SEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Federal departments, agen-
18 cies, and offices participating in the National Forensic
19 Science Research Initiative, including the National Science
20 Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and
21 Technology, and the Department of Justice, in partner-
22 ship with the Director of the Coordinating Office, shall
23 improve the foundation and practice of forensic science in
24 the United States by—

1 (1) conducting or supporting research con-
2 sistent with the unified Federal research strategy
3 under section 4;

4 (2) building relationships between forensic
5 science practitioners and members of the research
6 community;

7 (3) encouraging and promoting the education
8 and training of a diverse group of people to be lead-
9 ers in the interdisciplinary field of forensic science;
10 and

11 (4) broadly disseminating the results of the re-
12 search under paragraph (1).

13 (b) EXTERNAL GRANT ACTIVITIES.—All external fo-
14 rensic science research grants awarded by the Federal de-
15 partments, agencies, or offices under this section shall be
16 consistent with the merit review criteria as approved by
17 the National Science Board and described in the National
18 Science Foundation Proposal and Award Policies and Pro-
19 cedures Guide, including—

20 (1) the ability of each proposed research activ-
21 ity to advance knowledge and understanding relevant
22 to the forensic sciences and to benefit society or ad-
23 vance desired societal outcomes;

24 (2) the potential for the research activity to ex-
25 plore creative, original, or transformative concepts;

1 (3) the qualifications of the individual, team, or
2 organization proposing the research activity and the
3 adequacy of the research plan; and

4 (4) the adequacy of the resources available to
5 the individual, team, or organization proposing the
6 research activity.

7 (c) PUBLICATION.—All research conducted from
8 grants awarded under this section by the Federal depart-
9 ments, agencies, or offices shall take into consideration the
10 requirements of peer-reviewed scientific journals, and en-
11 courage the communication and open exchange of data
12 and results to other agencies, policymakers, and the pub-
13 lic.

14 (d) GRANT ACTIVITIES.—The National Science
15 Foundation shall award grants to improve the foundation
16 of forensic science in the United States. Additional mecha-
17 nisms for implementation may include interagency solici-
18 tations, workshops, interagency details and memoranda of
19 understanding, cooperative research centers, pilot pro-
20 grams, and demonstration projects.

21 (e) FORENSIC SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTERS.—

22 (1) MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CEN-
23 TERS.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the National
25 Forensic Science Research Initiative, taking

1 into account the unified Federal research strat-
2 egy under section 4(e), as informed by the re-
3 port on forensic science required under section
4 4(d), the Director of the National Science
5 Foundation, in collaboration with other Federal
6 departments, agencies, and offices contributing
7 to research in forensic science, shall establish 1
8 or more multidisciplinary research centers led
9 by public-private partnerships between univer-
10 sities, industry, State or local entities, and Fed-
11 eral agencies. Each multidisciplinary research
12 center shall be created with the following objec-
13 tives:

14 (i) Conducting basic and translational
15 research relevant for forensic science.

16 (ii) Encouraging the application of the
17 research under clause (i) to practical uses.

18 (iii) Educating undergraduate and
19 graduate students and developing a work-
20 force in fields relevant to forensic science.

21 (B) EVALUATION.—The Director of the
22 National Science Foundation shall conduct a
23 comprehensive evaluation of the forensic science
24 research grants awarded by the National

1 Science Foundation and multidisciplinary re-
2 search centers every 4 years—

3 (i) to determine whether the National
4 Science Foundation is achieving the objec-
5 tives of improving the foundation of foren-
6 sic science in the United States; and

7 (ii) to evaluate the extent to which the
8 National Science Foundation is contrib-
9 uting toward the priorities and objectives
10 described in the roadmap under section
11 4(e).

12 (C) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Di-
13 rector of the National Science Foundation shall
14 report to the appropriate committees of Con-
15 gress and the Director of the Coordinating Of-
16 fice the results of each comprehensive evalua-
17 tion under subparagraph (B).

18 (2) CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the
20 National Institute of Standards and Technology
21 shall establish and operate a Center of Excel-
22 lence focusing on measurement sciences, tech-
23 nology, and standards in forensic science with
24 the following objectives:

1 (i) To improve the standards of prac-
2 tice in the forensic sciences in the United
3 States.

4 (ii) To produce research collaborations
5 between the National Institute of Stand-
6 ards and Technology, academia, forensic
7 science practitioners, and industry focused
8 on accelerating innovations and new tech-
9 nology development in the forensic
10 sciences.

11 (iii) To fund the development of new
12 forensics techniques, including automated
13 testing methodologies, and to help transi-
14 tion these techniques to industry and prac-
15 titioners.

16 (iv) To fund the evaluation of new
17 and existing forensic techniques in terms
18 of reliability, cost effectiveness, and other
19 metrics, as appropriate, and to help transi-
20 tion these techniques to industry and prac-
21 titioners.

22 (v) To provide training opportunities
23 for undergraduate, graduate, and post-doc-
24 toral students in measurement science, as
25 is relevant to the forensic disciplines.

1 (vi) To encourage interdisciplinary re-
2 search in the forensic sciences by
3 leveraging access to unique National Insti-
4 tute of Standards and Technology facilities
5 and expertise, as appropriate.

6 (vii) To broadly disseminate the re-
7 sults of the National Institute of Stand-
8 ards and Technology forensic science re-
9 search.

10 (B) EVALUATION.—The Director of the
11 National Institute of Standards and Technology
12 shall conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the
13 Center of Excellence every 4 years—

14 (i) to determine whether the Center of
15 Excellence is achieving the objectives out-
16 lined in subparagraph (A);

17 (ii) to evaluate the extent to which the
18 Center of Excellence is contributing toward
19 the priorities and objectives described in
20 the roadmap under section 4(e).

21 (C) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—The Direc-
22 tor of the National Institute of Standards and
23 Technology shall report to the appropriate com-
24 mittees of Congress and the Director of the Co-

1 ordinating Office the results of each comprehen-
2 sive evaluation under subparagraph (B).

3 **SEC. 6. FORENSIC SCIENCE RESEARCH CHALLENGES.**

4 (a) PRIZES AND CHALLENGES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal department, agen-
6 cy, or office may assist in satisfying the research
7 needs and priorities identified in the unified Federal
8 research strategy under section 4 by using prizes
9 and challenges under the America COMPETES Re-
10 authorization Act (124 Stat. 3982) or under any
11 other provision of law, as appropriate.

12 (2) PURPOSES.—The purpose of a prize or
13 challenge under this section, among other possible
14 purposes, may be—

15 (A) to determine or develop the best data
16 collection practices or analytical methods to
17 evaluate a specific type of forensic data;

18 (B) to quantify or improve the efficiency,
19 reliability, or accuracy of an analytical method;

20 (C) to design new methodologies to inte-
21 grate evidence collection, documentation, and
22 analysis at crime scenes; or

23 (D) to address other topics as proposed by
24 the forensic science community.

1 (b) FORENSIC DATA SETS.—The National Institute
2 of Standards and Technology or the Department of Jus-
3 tice shall provide or contract with a non-Federal party to
4 prepare, when necessary, for each prize carried out under
5 this section, a sufficient set of data or samples, including
6 associated digital data that could be shared without limita-
7 tion and physical specimens that could be shared with
8 qualified parties, for purposes of a prize or challenge.

9 **SEC. 7. FORENSIC SCIENCE STANDARDS.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—To enhance the validity and
12 reliability of forensic science activities, the National
13 Institute of Standards and Technology shall—

14 (A) identify and coordinate the develop-
15 ment of voluntary consensus forensic science
16 standards, including—

17 (i) methods, standards, and technical
18 guidance, including protocols and best
19 practices, for analysis and interpretation;

20 (ii) technical standards useful in the
21 development of products employed by fo-
22 rensic science practitioners;

23 (iii) standard content, terminology,
24 and parameters to be used in reporting the
25 results and interpretation of forensic

1 science measurements, tests, and proce-
2 dures; and

3 (iv) standards for the interoperability
4 of forensic science-related technology and
5 databases;

6 (B) develop forensic science measurement
7 standards, standard reference materials, and
8 other reference materials to support forensic
9 science disciplines and associated measure-
10 ments;

11 (C) test and validate existing forensics
12 science standards, as appropriate; and

13 (D) provide independent validation of fo-
14 rensic science measurements and methods.

15 (2) CONSULTATION.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out its re-
17 sponsibilities under paragraph (1), the National
18 Institute of Standards and Technology shall
19 consult with, and in carrying out its responsibil-
20 ities under paragraph (1)(A) may partner or
21 contract with—

22 (i) standards development organiza-
23 tions and other stakeholders, including the
24 Department of Justice and other relevant

1 Federal departments, agencies, and offices;
2 and
3 (ii) testing laboratories, State and
4 local forensic science practitioners, and
5 certification and accreditation bodies, as
6 appropriate.

7 (3) PRIORITIZATION.—When prioritizing its re-
8 sponsibilities under paragraph (1), the National In-
9 stitute of Standards and Technology shall con-
10 sider—

11 (A) the unified Federal research strategy
12 and roadmap under section 4; and

13 (B) the recommendations of the scientific
14 area committees under subsection (b).

15 (4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of
16 the National Institute of Standards and Technology
17 shall report biennially to the appropriate committees
18 of Congress on the progress in carrying out the Na-
19 tional Institute of Standards and Technology’s re-
20 sponsibilities under paragraph (1).

21 (b) SCIENTIFIC AREA COMMITTEES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
23 Institute of Standards and Technology and the At-
24 torney General shall establish scientific area commit-
25 tees to identify gaps in and opportunities for stand-

1 ards development in the forensic sciences. The sci-
2 entific area committees shall report to and be ad-
3 ministered by the Director of the National Institute
4 of Standards and Technology.

5 (2) DUTIES.—The scientific area committees
6 shall be the primary mechanism for identifying and
7 coordinating the development of voluntary consensus
8 forensic science standards as described in subsection
9 (a). The scientific area committees shall submit, for
10 consideration by forensic science stakeholders and by
11 the Commission established in section 8, guidance on
12 these forensic science standards. In accomplishing
13 this objective, the scientific area committees shall—

14 (A) encourage information exchange within
15 the forensic science community, to include re-
16 searchers, practitioners, law enforcement, and
17 legal professionals;

18 (B) ensure that standards development is
19 appropriate to the needs of the forensic science
20 community and relevant to practical applica-
21 tions;

22 (C) take into account existing studies and
23 reports; and

24 (D) by holding public meetings and dis-
25 seminating work products for public review and

1 comment to the extent practicable, support pub-
2 lic participation in the standards development
3 process and the broad adoption of forensic
4 science standards.

5 (3) MEMBERS.—The scientific area committees
6 shall have significant representation from forensic
7 science practitioners, academic researchers, and stat-
8 isticians to balance scientific rigor with practical and
9 regulatory constraints. Each member of a scientific
10 area committee shall have significant academic, re-
11 search, or practical expertise in a discipline of foren-
12 sic science or in another area relevant to the purpose
13 of the scientific area committee.

14 (4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—A
15 scientific area committee established under this sub-
16 section shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory
17 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated out of otherwise avail-
20 able appropriations to the National Institute of Standards
21 and Technology to carry out this section—

- 22 (1) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;
23 (2) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and
24 (3) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.

1 **SEC. 8. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FORENSIC SCIENCE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the National
3 Institute of Standards and Technology and the Attorney
4 General, in consultation with the Director of the National
5 Science Foundation, shall establish a National Commis-
6 sion on Forensic Science.

7 (b) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

8 (1) provide advice to the Federal departments,
9 agencies, and offices implementing the unified Fed-
10 eral research strategy under section 4;

11 (2) provide advice to the National Institute of
12 Standards and Technology, including recommenda-
13 tions regarding the National Institute of Standards
14 and Technology's responsibilities under section 7;

15 (3) receive and review guidance on standards
16 setting from the scientific area committees estab-
17 lished under section 7 and, based on this guidance,
18 advise the Department of Justice on the promotion
19 of forensic science standards; and

20 (4) provide advice to the Department of Jus-
21 tice, including recommendations regarding the devel-
22 opment of a forensic science uniform code of profes-
23 sional responsibility and the Department of Justice's
24 responsibilities under section 9.

25 (c) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Commission may form
26 subcommittees related to specific disciplines in forensic

1 science or as necessary to further its duties under sub-
2 section (b). A subcommittee may include an individual who
3 is not a member of the Commission.

4 (d) CHAIRS.—The Director of the National Institute
5 of Standards and Technology and the Attorney General,
6 or their designees, shall co-chair the Commission.

7 (e) MEMBERSHIP.—The Director of the National In-
8 stitute of Standards and Technology and the Attorney
9 General, in consultation with the Director of the National
10 Science Foundation, shall appoint each member of the
11 Commission. The Commission shall include balanced rep-
12 resentation between forensic science disciplines (including
13 academic scientists, statisticians, social scientists, engi-
14 neers, and representatives of other related scientific dis-
15 ciplines) and relevant forensic science applications (includ-
16 ing Federal, State, and local representatives of the foren-
17 sic science community, the legal community, victim advo-
18 cate organizations, and law enforcement).

19 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—The Attorney General shall
20 provide administrative support to the Commission.

21 (g) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The
22 Commission established under this section shall not be
23 subject to section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee
24 Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

1 **SEC. 9. ADOPTION, ACCREDITATION, AND CERTIFICATION.**

2 The Attorney General shall promote the adoption of
3 forensic science standards developed under section 7, in-
4 cluding—

5 (1) by requiring, as appropriate, each labora-
6 tory under the Department of Justice to adopt the
7 forensic science standards;

8 (2) by encouraging other Federal and non-Fed-
9 eral forensic laboratories to adopt the forensic
10 science standards;

11 (3) by promoting accreditation and certification
12 requirements based on the forensic science stand-
13 ards; and

14 (4) by promoting any recommendations made
15 by the Commission for adoption and implementation
16 of forensic science standards.

17 **SEC. 10. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECH-**
18 **NOLOGY FUNCTIONS.**

19 Section 2(b) of the National Institute of Standards
20 and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(b)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” after
22 the semicolon;

23 (2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at
24 the end and inserting “; and”; and

25 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(14) to identify and coordinate the develop-
2 ment of voluntary consensus forensic science stand-
3 ards to enhance the validity and reliability of foren-
4 sic science activities.”.